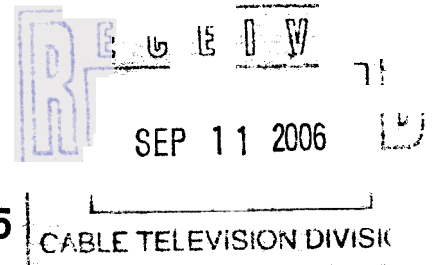




Town of Reading
16 Lowell Street
Reading, MA 01867-2685



FAX: (781) 942-9071
Email: townmanager@ci.reading.ma.us

TOWN MANAGER
(781) 942-9043

September 6, 2006

Alicia Matthews, Director
Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications & Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Director Matthews:

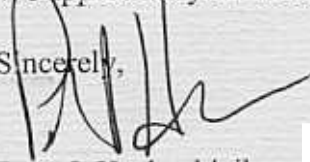
I have testified before the Commission on Verizon's application to modify the licensing procedure. It was asked at that time for me to send a chronology of the cable licensing process. Attached is a copy of that chronology.

Although there are some "gaps," in the timing, the Town and Verizon were not idle during these periods. For example, between April 15th submission by Verizon of its cable licensing application, and the July 15th issuing of the Issuing Authority report, the Town was doing a detailed assessment of local needs. Between December 19th when the Board of Selectmen held a public hearing, and January 25th when the Board awarded the final franchise, the Town and Verizon were working hard on resolving the last remaining issues.

What all of this will show is that a 60 day or 90 day period of time to issue a cable TV license, even with a community that is motivated and with highly competent, professional and legal staff, this is not a realistic time frame.

We appreciate your including this information on the record of this hearing.

Sincerely,



Peter I. Hechenbleikner
Town Manager

PIH:lm
Attachment
CC: Peter Bowman, Verizon
MMA
Bill Solomon

**Town of Reading – Verizon New England, Inc.
Cable Television License Application**

Chronology of Cable Licensing Process

February 1, 2005: Verizon representatives meet with Town of Reading Board of Selectmen to discuss Verizon's interest in obtaining a cable license in Reading. The Board of Selectmen unanimously vote to initiate the cable licensing process.

February 3, 2005: The Town sends letters to the Cable Division of the Department of Telecommunications and Energy requesting waivers and giving notice of the Town's initiation of the cable licensing process.

February 16, 2005: The Cable Division issues waivers to the Town.

March 18, 2005: The Town places advertisement soliciting cable television license applications.

April 15, 2005: Verizon submits a cable television license application.

July 12, 2005: The Town issues an Issuing Authority Report.

August 9, 2005: Verizon submits proposed cable license to the Town.

August 2005 – November 2005: The Town issues extensions for Verizon to submit an amended application.

August 2005 – December 2005: Verizon and the Town meet for negotiation sessions on: August 11, August 30, September 8, September 23, September 30, November 22, November 28, November 29, December 5, December 7, December 9, December 13, December 15, December 16, and December 19.

December 5, 2005: Verizon submits IAR response (amended application) to the Town.

December 5, 2005: The Town places public notice for December 19 public hearing.

December 9, 2005: Verizon submits proposed final license to the Town.

December 19, 2005: Board of Selectmen holds a public hearing.

January 2006: Verizon and Town meet for negotiation sessions on: January 6, January 19, January 23, and January 24.

January 25, 2006: Board of Selectmen holds continued hearing and awards final franchise.